

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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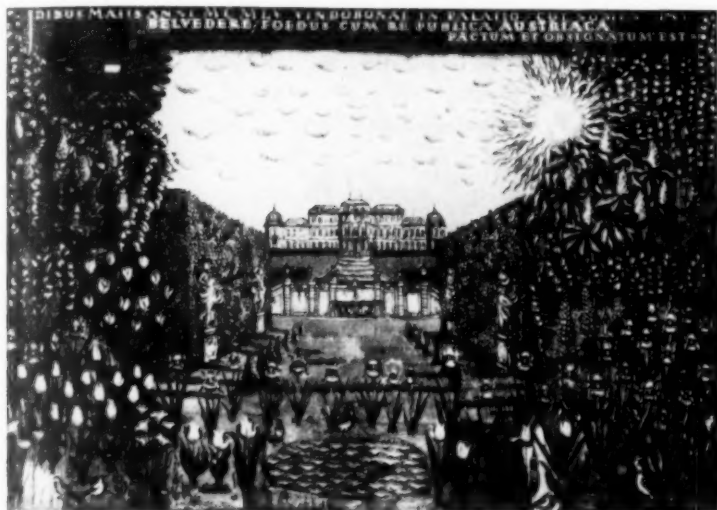
AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL XI, NO. 11

2 - JUL - 9
COPY ~~4~~ 1958

June 7, 1958



• **RAAB'S GIFT TO EISENHOWER.** When he visited the White House, Chancellor Julius Raab brought along a picture (reproduced above) of a tapestry commemorating the Austrian State Treaty which was concluded in 1955 at Belvedere Palace. The gobelin, which is now being woven, will be presented to President Eisenhower next fall by a member of the Austrian government.

"AUSTRIAN SOLUTION" FOR DISARMAMENT CONTROL

Austrian State Secretary Bruno Kreisky recently gave an interview in which he made the following observations:

It must be made clear to the Russians how little any large power can today, with the current state of armaments, consider the use of a policy of strength when such a policy can only lead to mutual destruction. It must also be acknowledged that, if the Russians have a need for security, this need is no less urgent for the other states; and if due consideration is to be given to this need for security, a balance of power, based on the realities of the world today, must be conceded.

The idea of disarmament must have as its goal a situation where nuclear weapons and conventional weapons are abolished at the same time. This could be done step by step, but always in such a way that the equilibrium is maintained.

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AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF AUSTRIA

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RAAB THANKS EISENHOWER
FOR CORDIAL RECEPTION

Having arrived in London on May 29 via the polar route from San Francisco, Chancellor Raab proceeded to Vienna on the next morning by regular flight of AUA, the recently established Austrian airline. The Chancellor was met at Vienna-Schwechat airport by the President of the Parliament and members of the Cabinet.

Before he left American soil, he sent a telegram to President Eisenhower in which he expressed his thanks for the friendly reception accorded to him. "I am leaving your country with the feeling that the bonds of friendship between the U.S. and Austria are even stronger now than ever before. I am most appreciate of your sympathetic understanding of my country's problems," Mr. Raab wrote.

The Chancellor also expressed the hope that he would at some later date be able to reciprocate the hospitality he received and have the President and Mrs. Eisenhower as Austria's guests in Vienna. Raab also sent messages of thanks to Vice President Nixon and Secretary of State Dulles.

"AUSTRIA ENJOYS EXCELLENT CREDIT;" KAMITZ REVIEWS COMMITMENTS

In a recently published report, Austrian Finance Minister Reinhard Kamitz summarized Austria's position in the credit market as follows:

Thus far the World Bank has put at the disposal of the Austrian power industry total credits amounting to \$53 million and 15 million D-marks. (4.20 German marks equal one dollar. Ed.) There is no doubt that the expansion of the Austrian water power plants — especially the power plants at *Reisseck-Kreuzeck*, *Ybbs-Persenbeug*, *Luenersee* and the caloric plants at *Voitsberg* and *St. Andrae* — would not have been possible without the assistance of the World Bank.

Austria's policy with regard to the World Bank was shaped to achieve pioneering results: Austrian initiative brought about a deviation from the Bank's principles of tying credits to imports.

Preparatory to the negotiations conceiving the first industrial credit for Austria (which has since been consummated), new and as yet untried steps had to be taken — at least from the Bank's point of view. Creation of an Austrian Investment Credit Bank was the condition for granting the first industrial loan. Further expansion of the *Investitions-*

(Continued on page 4)

"ACTIVE POLICY" TO MEET THE ECONOMIC TIDES OF CHANGE

Finance Minister Reinhard Kamitz also told a recent meeting of Salzburg businessmen that it was necessary to employ an active policy to meet changing economic conditions. The most important current task, Kamitz said, was for the State to take economic measures. While the national budget showed a relatively large deficit, it was nevertheless necessary that a spending policy be maintained, he said. The Minister stressed that he supported steady step-by-step tax reductions. He explained that public receipts following the latest tax reductions had risen not in spite of the reduction but because of it.

Kamitz also said that if current measures alone did not appear sufficient to guarantee a corresponding revitalization of the economy, the question of interest rates would have to be examined.

EUROPE'S FUTURE CAPITAL: JONAS ADVANCES VIENNA'S CLAIM

Mayor Jonas of Vienna recently spoke on the theme "Vienna - Capital of Europe." He said that the choice of the city where the federal authorities of a United Europe might have their future headquarters had a certain relevance to the decision about the meaning and extent of a New Europe. Strasbourg and Paris had been mentioned in this respect, he said, and, he added, their choice might be logical if only the countries belonging to the Coal and Steel Community were concerned. But such a choice would be identical with a renunciation of the idea of a wider European Union and would mean a self-imposed limitation. Jonas added that in addition to the Iron Curtain dividing East from West, another division would occur among the Western nations with a wall between the six states of the Community and the rest of Western Europe.

Only a Greater Europe, a Europe which could win the East for economic and cultural cooperation, has the chance to assert itself, the Mayor said.

He then continued: "The role of mediator between the Slavic and the Franco-Germanic world has been cut out for Vienna - be it for geopolitical reasons alone. Our city today is the last outpost of the West and at the same time the first neighbor of the East. Peaceful inclusion of the Slavic peoples will mean world peace. It would be a significant manifestation of this desire for peace if Vienna were chosen as capital of Europe.

"If, on the other hand, Paris or some German city were selected, old resentments, or fears of a favored position for one country or another, might come to the fore. No one need fear Austria in this respect.

"Vienna is a living democracy. It has shown that best during the period of military occupation, especially in the face of the attempted Communist putsch in October 1950. At that time, Vienna not only saved democracy in Austria, but possibly in a much wider field. Vienna also is a city of social progress and the largest city on the Danube, the only river flowing from West to East. We belong to the Franco-Germanic sphere, but we also understand the Slavs - and the Slavs understand us."

TALKS ON EUROPE

As previously reported, "Talks on Europe," with Europe's Unity the main theme, will be held during the Vienna Festival Weeks between June 18 and 22. The event will be broadcast and televised from the meeting room at City Hall. The themes of the prominent speakers have now been announced:

Robert Schuman (France) will discuss "European Unity in Stages: How to Select Them." Raymond Aaron has chosen the subject: "The Unity of Western Europe and the Future of Eastern Europe." Sir Robert Boothby will discuss "The British Position on Problems of European Unity." Cabinet Minister Jens Otto Krag (Denmark) will talk on "Problems of Nordic and European Economic Cooperation." Cabinet Minister Per Federspiel (Denmark) will discuss the question of "Responsibilities and Obligations under a European Community." Ludovico Benvenuti (Italy), Secretary General of the Council of Europe, has chosen as his subject "The Common Heritage of European Nations." Fernand Dehousse (Belgium) will discuss "European Political Administration." Deputy Fritz Erler of the German *Bundestag* will talk on "The Cultural Community as a Basis for Europe's Unity."

CONANT, SCHUSTER AT ALPBACH

At this year's Alpbach College Weeks (held under the auspices of the Austrian College August 22 through September 11), The Balance of Freedom will be the central theme. One of the important discussions will be a "Debate between Europe and America" (August 28-30) which will bring to Austria leading authors and scholars from both continents. One prominent European and one prominent American will open the debate on Freedom. Albert Camus, Robert Aaron, George Schuster and James Conant are among the leading thinkers who will take part. Following the main lectures, discussions on Politics, Culture and Economy are scheduled.

In the political department, a prominent American will lead the discussion on the problems of Elites, while a cultural round table discussion, probably under the leadership of Salvador de Madariaga, will treat the chances for Freedom in Mass Cultures. Sir Oliver Franks is expected to direct the economic discussion, which has as its theme questions of economic conditions, living standards and investment protection.

Besides this three-day discussion cycle, the usual Alpbach working groups will discuss subjects related to the main theme of Freedom. This year, these groups are to meet separately on different questions and in different languages English, French, Italian and German.

"Austrian Solution" (Continued from p. 1)

The notion of introducing mutual control measures is a little difficult for all countries, whether large or small. But since controls are of the utmost importance to international confidence and thus to disarmament, a workable solution to this question must be found. Such a solution, in my opinion, would be the "Austrian solution."

During Austria's occupation, we had the allied military

patrol — the famous *four in a jeep*. Each of the four military policemen attended only to the nationals of his country, while the other three played the roles of non-participating witnesses. With such a solution, the big powers could uphold their prestige. Perhaps it would be necessary to engage a fifth control agent to represent all the other nations.

"But these are merely technical problems which can be squared off if there is a will to find a solution."

In conclusion, Kreisky said that he considers a summit conference really necessary, even if it were only to bring out the true motives of the big powers — "for it is alarming to consider that peace rests solely upon a balance of terror."

AUTOMATION MEETING IN VIENNA

The Austrian Working Committee for Automation recently held its first plenary meeting in Vienna. It was the first time that this body (created within the framework of the Austrian Productivity Center) held public sessions. The Committee's governing board is made up of representatives of management and labor on a parity basis. Work projects were assigned to 33 working groups and subcommittees in which 280 leading experts will participate.

Five main groups were created to deal with: 1. scientific data, information and education; 2. designing of equipment

for automation; 3. the use of automation in plants; 4. the use of automation in services (old-age pension systems, insurance, etc.) 5. socio-political effects of automation.



OFFICERS CONSULT at army maneuvers recently held in Austria. Some 30,000 soldiers of the country's new defense force took part in extensive exercises which were reviewed by President Schaerf.

AUSTRIA'S ECONOMY SURVEYED

Foreign and domestic currency on deposit with the Austrian National Bank decreased during April by 46 million schillings to 10.5 billion schillings. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) However, total deposits since April, 1957, rose by two billion schillings.

The Bank's *gold deposits*, which a year ago reached a value of two billion schillings, have since increased by 650 million schillings.

Foreign tourist traffic during March, 1958, brought to the Austrian National Bank foreign currency equivalent to 254 million schillings which is roughly the same as in February but 71 million schillings more than in March, 1957.

PRODUCTION CHANGES BY PERCENTAGES IN FEBRUARY, 1958, AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY

Leather, Shoes	+21	Electrical Industry	+ 8
Vehicles	+15	Textiles	+ 5
Building Materials	+14	Mining	+ 4
Magnesite	+11	Paper	+ 4
Chemicals	+ 9	Machinery	+ 3
Foundries	+ 9	Tobacco Products	- 5
Blast Furnaces	+ 8	Metal Industry	- 9
		Foodstuffs	-13

AUSTRIA'S BUDGET: FACTS AND FIGURES

Austria's estimated 1957 budget of 32.5 billion schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) proved to be on the cautious side. According to the tentative balance for that year, the government spent 36.3 billion schillings. Investments were more than two billion schillings higher than

estimated. (Current receipts being higher than originally expected, a hefty increase in state spending was made possible.)

The increase in public spending, especially through investments and the use of additional means of financing (loans), came as a boost at the right moment. It helped to surmount the weakness in the domestic investment markets which became noticeable at the turn of the year and aided an effortless economic adjustment from the export to the domestic market. Thanks to this development, unfavorable trends in other parts of the world have so far left little mark upon the Austrian economy.

Total expenditures for 1958, as estimated in the new budget (38.97 billion schillings), are 20% higher and those for investments and similar purposes 60% higher than the figures for the estimated 1957 budget (excluding the special budget). A comparison of the estimates is misleading, however, since the 1957 budget was underestimated while the 1958 figures might not quite be matched by receipts. The estimated total expenditures are only 2.66 billion schillings higher (7%) than those in 1957. Thus, spending will increase to a much smaller degree than in 1957.

While government expenditures will not increase as much as in the previous year, the 1958 budget will probably originate stronger economic impulses. This is explained by the fact that the gross product can now only grow relatively slowly and that government receipts can only increase at a similar pace.

AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC STATISTICS

FOREIGN TRADE, TOTAL

(in million schillings - 26 schillings = \$1)

	Feb. 1958	March 1958	March 1957
Imports	2,151	2,480	2,581
Exports	1,875	2,092	2,296
Foreign Trade Balance. .	-276	-388	-285

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

(Index 1937 : 100)

	Dec. 1957	Jan. 1958	Jan. 1957
Total Production	240.9	237.9	223.4
Durable Goods	329.6	302.5	282.4
Perishable Goods ...	167.1	181.6	171.7
Employment.	184.9	183.4	181.9
Productivity	130.3	129.7	122.8

PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

(Index March 1938 : 100)

	Feb. 1958	March 1958	March 1957
Wholesale Prices	861	863	876
Retail Prices.	749	747	738
Cost of Living.	758.5	764.3	726.9

LABOR MARKET

(in 1,000 persons, at end of month)

	Feb. 1958	March 1958	March 1957
Employed.	2,100.7	2,112.2	2,113.7
Registered Unemployed	213.2	193.6	154.1
Persons drawing Unemployment Bene- fits	183.2	166.1	128.9

AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

(Below are the changes in foreign trade distribution according to country of origin and destination which took place in March 1958, in comparison with February, 1958 and March, 1957).

(in million schillings; 26 schillings equal one dollar)

Countries of Origin and Destination	March 1958	Feb. 1958	March 1957
EXPORTS	2,092	1,875	2,296
Fed. Rep. of Germany	499	430	520
Italy	368	318	409
Poland	94	106	75
Switzerland	81	75	145
Yugoslavia	79	94	63
Hungary	75	50	59
United States	71	56	83
Czechoslovakia	56	38	59
Netherlands	54	58	76
France	54	48	82
Other countries	661	602	725

IMPORTS

	2,480	2,151	2,579
Fed. Rep. of Germany	915	781	911
United States	311	194	333
Italy	210	178	198
Great Britain	121	89	125
Switzerland	98	83	119
France	80	79	100
Netherlands	63	55	62
Yugoslavia	45	41	37
Poland	44	75	81
Hungary	43	33	28
Other countries	550	543	585

KAMITZ REVIEWS (Continued from page 1)

Kredit A.G. now seems to be essential to open further credits to Austria's industry not only from the World Bank, but also from other relevant foreign capital sources. The volume of the first industrial loan amounted to \$10.7 million; a further loan may soon be arranged. The World Bank has accepted an invitation from the Austrian Federal Government to send a delegation to Vienna to investigate which of the larger Austrian concerns might obtain priority for further World Bank loans.

Since 1952, Austria was able to expand its dealings with the Export-Import Bank of Washington. Austria's good relations with that world-wide credit organization led in 1958 to an agreement for a \$28.15 million loan for the Alpine Montan steel company.

The Austrian Ministry of Finance has taken up direct contacts with the large commercial and investment banks in the United States. The commercial banks which in recent years have acted as depositories for the Austrian National Bank are well informed about Austria's economic condition. Several credit deals have already been closed with these institutions.

Yet Austria did not pay one schilling in commissions for all these foreign credits amounting to more than four billion.

Austria's success in the field of capital imports is relatively great since 1952. It is due to the cumulative effect of all the measures taken by the Government with regard to credit and financial policy, and it echoes the confidence of the Western World in Austria's economy. Great capital sources were opened, among others, with the World Bank, the Washington Export-Import Bank and the Wall Street Institute. Decisive assistance was thus given to the power industry, the steel industry, the paper and textile industries, the federal railroad system, and the telephone system.

We still face important tasks — such as floating an emission in the United States, opening new capital sources, and directing foreign capital into as yet untouched branches of Austrian industry. However, development to date indicates without the shadow of a doubt that confidence in our economy rests on a sound foundation, Prof. Kamitz concluded.

BUILDING SUPPLIERS REPORT GROWTH

The Austrian trade association for building supply, representing about 90% of the total business in this industry, reported recently that total sales by all Austrian building supply firms amounted to 1.2 billion schillings in 1957. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) The credit granted commercial purchasers was roughly a quarter billion schillings during that year. Storage space for the entire production would have taken up an estimated 770,000 square meters. (One square meter equals 10.76 square feet.) Currently, the industry has a labor force of about 3,000.

The report, issued on the association's 50th anniversary, gives a noteworthy history of the development of the building materials industry in Austria and thus of the development of building construction. It mentions, in passing, the difficult tasks the industry had to meet after the two world wars, especially in 1945, when nearly 300,000 apartments and residences were destroyed and when the building trade was practically at a standstill.

The trade has expanded considerably in recent years, the report said. Transportation and storage facilities were among the difficulties which were straightened out. Stock-keeping and credit needs are other problems the industry has mastered. Today, it is able to deliver any type of material for Austria's growing building industry.

FOREIGN TOURIST TRAFFIC CLIMBING

A new increase in foreign tourist traffic: during the first quarter of 1958, Austria counted 2,583,550 foreign overnight guests as against 2,268,759 during the same period of 1957. The largest climb took place, as usual, in March.

TARIFFS TO BE REDUCED

The new Austrian tariff, effective Sept. 1, 1958, will — as the current one — take a middle-of-the-road position between the pronounced protectionism of Italy and France and the low tariffs of the Scandinavian countries, Belgium, Switzerland and, lately, West Germany. Most of the duty-free items are among the raw materials, but other categories will also be freed of customs duties. Of the roughly 2,550 industrial and commercial items listed, about one fourth will be duty-free. About 4% will be affected by specific or mixed duties, while the rest will be subject to duties of between 5% and 30% of value (the highest is 40% for television sets).

The Austrian Institute for Economic Research had made a study on a limited number of goods (175) to measure the effects of the tariff change.

In general, the study shows that for the 175 items, duties under the new tariff levels average 15% (24% in 1953).

If one considers the customs duties agreed to under GATT, general customs duties were about the same as in the new tariff. And if the then granted liberalizations are taken into account, duties were possibly even lower. The actual duties will depend on what kind of liberalizations will be included in the new tariff. If, as seems likely, they are to be continued as heretofore, tariffs would tend to decrease.

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RISE IN EMPLOYMENT, GROWING INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT UNAFFECTED BY REDUCED EXPORTS

"Domestic business still strong — but stocks of finished merchandise rising and orders decreasing. Some prices, subject to economic fluctuations, decreasing."

Thus does the Austrian Institute for Economic Research characterize Austria's economic situation in its recently published monthly report.

It said that building construction is going great guns again and employed more people at the middle of May than the year before. Industrial production, favored by lively investment activity and relatively high private consumption, expanded sufficiently to take a load off the labor market.

But the report does not hold back the fact that the economic situation — in spite of the good results of most branches of industry — shows certain weaknesses, which are highlighted by the export figures (during the first quarter of 1958 exports were 5% lower than last year — a trend which became more marked from month to month).

The labor market developed favorably and was even more lively than last year. The number of employed rose by 61,500 to 2,173,400. The number of persons looking for work decreased at the same time by 69,400 to 124,000.

As reported in greater detail elsewhere on these pages, reduced exports so far had little influence upon industrial production. During February, as well as January, industry produced 7% more than during the same periods last year.

However, this does not divert attention from the fact that exports continue to decrease. A climb by 217 million schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) or 12% to 2,092,000,000 during March was seasonable. Detailed figures show that, compared with 1957, exports decreased by 3 to 4% in January and February and almost 9% in March. Imports went up by 328 million schillings or 15% to 2,480,000,000 schillings during March, or 4% less than a year before.

The demand for business credits continues very lively.

Industry lowered prices not only of export articles but in certain cases also of domestically-sold items. In other cases, it did without a scheduled rise in prices. Lower import prices helped to stabilize price levels. The wholesale index of the official statistics went down by 1% to 854 (1938: 100) between March 15 and April 15. It was 3% lower than last year.

According to industrial wage statistics, industrial workers earned 6.2% and white collar workers 4.4% more during the 1st quarter of 1958 than during this period of 1957.

EFFECTIVE TAX REDUCTIONS

The three stages of the Austrian income tax reduction (1954, 1955 and 1958) have been of great effect, as a report by the Austrian Institute for Economic Research shows; for the high income groups taxes went down by a third, and for the medium strata by one half. For some sectors among the low income groups, income taxes were done away with completely. In many cases the three tax reduction stages have reduced direct income taxes below the 1945 level. The current reduction favors especially small and medium wage earners and is expected to revitalize the demand for consumers' goods.

IRON, STEEL FORGE AHEAD

The Austrian iron and steel industry gained production increases in all branches during 1957. Basic iron production in 1957 increased over 1956 by 12.88% to 1,960,285 metric tons. (One metric ton equals 2,200 lbs. Ed.) Basic steel production went up to 2,508,869 metric tons, or 20.76% more than in 1956. The figures for rolled steel were 1,589,707 tons, a 14.85% increase; and for pressed steel 57,053 tons, a 9.8% increase.

Even in comparison with international production, results in Austria are significant. While, for example, basic steel production increases during the past two years amounted to 20.76% in Austria, international basic steel production growth amounted to only 3.28%. In the nations belonging to the European Coal and Steel Community, the increase came to 5.36%.

Compared with average production development in the past five years, the Austrian iron and steel industry shows up very well. World basic steel production rose 39% during the years from 1952 to 1957, that of the Community 43%, that of the Federal Republic of Germany 55% and that of Austria 138%. The enormous increase of Austrian basic steel production can be traced to the introduction of the LD (Linz-Donawitz) system (usually referred to as Basic Oxygen process in the U.S.).

Generally speaking the sharp decline of the steel boom which has been noticeable in the world market since the middle of 1957, has not yet affected the 1957 sales of the Austrian industries. Domestic and foreign orders developed favorably and even reached a new high.

Domestically, 771,000 metric tons of commercial grade rolled steel were sold in 1957 as against 736,000 tons in 1957. Figures for first grade rolled steel were 80,000 tons in 1957 as against 69,000 tons in 1956. These figures include consumption by the producers themselves.

Exports in commercial grade rolled steel rose from 451,000 tons in 1956 to 608,000 tons last year; in first grade rolled steel from 101,000 to 380,000 tons. Thus 56% of commercial grade steel was sold domestically and 44% was exported. The percentages for first grade rolled steel show 37% domestic sales and 63% exports. As before, about two thirds of Austrian steel exports went to the OEEC nations, a quarter to the Eastern European states and the rest overseas.

However, these figures should not blind the industry into the belief that the world market situation will not have its effect upon the steel boom. The general leveling-off in the international steel business has already affected the development of sales possibilities for the Austrian industry.

CANADIAN DELEGATION VISITS AUSTRIA

A Canadian government and economic delegation of 50 members arrived recently for a visit in Austria. Among the delegates were R.W. Bonner, Minister of Commerce of British Columbia; David T. Kinnear, President of the Vancouver chamber of commerce, and other leading industrialists and businessmen from Western Canada. A program planned by the Austrian chamber of commerce permitted the Canadian visitors to hold important discussions with representatives of

Austrian business. The delegates also visited a number of Austrian factories.

THE JET AGE COMBINED WITH DANUBIAN CHARMS

The Danube Steamship Co., conscious of the expected heavy tourist traffic this year, commissioned eight passenger river boats and three "Danube Buses." The company organized a preview for the press to show off its new craft which have seats for 93 passengers each.

The routes Vienna-Linz and along the Wachau are taken over by the Danube Buses. Beginning the middle of June, a boat will take over daily at Linz to relieve the often overcrowded steamers. An excursion trip, called "Three Romantic Days on the Danube" has been arranged in cooperation with an air line. Boats will also serve for moonlight cruises with dancing aboard. (Of course, there'll be Viennese music.)

MUSICAL TOYS - AN EXCELLENT EXPORT ITEM

An Upper Austrian enterprise manufacturing musical instruments and toys exports about 90% of its entire production. The United States alone accounts for about two thirds of the foreign trade. Other client nations included Mexico, several African territories, India, South America and a number of European nations (especially the Benelux countries and France).

Among the novelties which the manufacturer brought out was a children's organ which has found much interest in the United States.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO TRAFFIC TICKETS....

In a poll taken recently among Vienna's traffic cops, several types of drivers don't come out so well. Among them are the motorcyclists and the drivers of public vehicles, such as streetcars and buses.

Asked how drivers reacted to admonitions, the officers said that 41% of those warned reacted "sensibly," 33% reacted "discourteously," 19% "excitedly," and only 7% "aggressively." (Unfortunately, no precise definition was given for the difference between "discourteous" and "aggressive.")

If the cops' opinion is to be credited, the Viennese react very differently when it comes to fines. Here the "excited" amount to 40%, the "aggressive" to 27%, the "discourteous" to 21%. The "sensible" are a hopeless minority - they amount to but 7%. (The policemen's replies also showed that older officers felt themselves treated "discourteously" more often.)

EXPECT 5,000 PARTICIPANTS AT BIOCHEMISTS' CONGRESS IN VIENNA

The 4th International Biochemical Congress (Sept. 1-6), will be one of the biggest and most important scientific meetings ever held in Austria's capital. It will take place in the main building of Vienna University.

Last May 1 - exactly four months before the meeting and two months before the lists close - the Secretariat registered 2,156 active participants and 584 accompanying persons. The Secretariat estimated that by June 30, between 4,000 and 5,000 persons will have registered. This would be an attendance record for a scientific event in Vienna after World War II.

The number of papers to be offered is also very large. Sessions will be divided into 18 sections on the general theme of biochemistry. So far 1,468 scientific papers have been entered. Besides these sessions, 12 symposiums and six special sessions are scheduled.

Participants will come from all countries of the globe, even from East Asia and Australia. The roll of participants contains 15 Nobel prize winners.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

RESEARCH REACTOR CONTRACTED

The Austrian Research Society for Atomic Energy and the American Machine and Foundry Company, New York, recently concluded a contract for the construction and delivery of a research reactor which is destined to become part of the Austrian Reactor Center.

This reactor's energy output will be in the category of 5,000 kilowatts; it will serve as a strong neutron source for experimental and theoretical research in various fields such as physics, metallurgy, isotope production, agricultural and biological investigations, and chemical and other industrially important processes; it will also serve the needs of the Austrian Research Society for Atomic Energy.

Besides the reactor, which will be the main equipment of the planned Reactor Center, construction of a 5.5 million electrovolt *van de Graaf* electrostatic particle accelerator is planned. The research reactor and the accelerator will be mounted close to the chemical and metallurgical laboratories as well as the physics and electronic departments. Furthermore, the reactor will serve a hot cell building and a laboratory for biology, agriculture and forestry.

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Other plans include: a laboratory to work out protective measures against radiation; enclosures for test animals; stockrooms, administration buildings and electric power installations.

The reactor will be placed into a cylindrical building which will offer every known type of protection. Preparations for its construction are already under way by an Austrian engineering group assisted by the scientific staff of the Research Society.

The contracting parties have agreed that a considerable amount of the reactor parts are to be manufactured by Austrian firms. (A large number of bids by American and British firms were finally resolved in favor of the American Machine & Foundry Company, because that firm's accumulated experience in this special field; it has already four reactors to its credit: two for the United States and one each for Munich and Amsterdam.)

The Austrian reactor is expected to be completed in December 1959.

IAEA RESEARCH PROJECT FOR UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

The International Atomic Energy Agency turned over to the University of Vienna its first research project. The University's First Chemical Institute has been asked to undertake tests concerning radioactive split products in the biosphere. A contract between IAEA and the University became effective last May 15.

The Agency supplied Austrian radio-chemical scientists with special equipment. It also agreed to finance the project which is to be completed within a year. The results are expected to aid in measures leading to the creation of health and security regulations for IAEA.

FIRST IAEA MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA

The first mission to be sent out into the field by the International Atomic Energy Agency to aid less developed nations through the peaceful use of atomic energy left for Latin America recently, Sterling Cole, IAEA director general, announced in Vienna.

The team is to study the need for regional training centers in the peaceful application of the atom. It consists of three experts (U.S., British and French), lent to the IAEA by their respective governments; they will investigate scientific and educational aspects of atomic energy in Latin America.

WERFEL DRAMA TO BE STAGED IN SALZBURG

Franz Werfel's drama "Juarez and Maximilian" will be presented during the coming Salzburg Festival, it was announced recently. While in recent years the main emphasis had been placed on the great German and Austrian classics of Goethe, Schiller, Lessing, Grillparzer, Raimund and Nestoy, the directors of the Salzburg Festival plan to focus attention during the coming seasons on more recent and contemporary authors whose works already have achieved the status of "classics": Werfel, Schnitzler, and Hofmannsthal. The 1958 choice was Werfel's "Juarez and Maximilian." The directors of the Festival considered that this play, with its Austrian theme embracing tragic events in the Spanish-Mexican world, would harmonize with the baroque atmosphere of the Salzburg theatre. Direction has been assigned to Ernst Lothar.

Tentative plans regarding the presentation of international classics have also been made. The directors intend to have national companies present plays by Shakespeare, Moliere and Goldoni.

ANOTHER HOCHWAEELDER PLAY BECOMES A LONDON SUCCESS

The English premiere of Fritz Hochwaelder's "Der oeffentliche Anklaeger" (The Public Prosecutor), a tragedy dealing with the French Revolution, recently took place at the London Art Theatre. It followed stage and television performances of the same author's drama "Das heilige Experiment" (The Lonely are Strong) which was favorably received by London critics. Hochwaelder's latest play was given detailed comments by London's first-line reviewers who agreed on its solid dramatic construction and its theatrical impact.

GRILLPARZER COMEDY FOR BREGENZ

The Bregenz Festival program for the 1958 season includes a Vienna Burgtheater presentation of Grillparzer's comedy "Weh dem der luegt" (Thou shalt not lie). Leopold Lindtberg has been assigned the direction. Other plays to be presented are Reinhold Schneider's "Der grosse Verzicht" (Resignation) and Schiller's "Maria Stuart."

**VIENNA VOLKSOPER PRESENTS
SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SEASON**

The Volksoper has announced tentative plans for its 1958-1959 season. During the first part of September, a new presentation of Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor" will hit the boards. Franz Bauer-Theussl will be musical director; Endre Koreh will alternate with Zdenek Kroupa in the role of Falstaff.

During the second half of September, the ballet premieres of Franz Salmhofer's "Lockendes Phantom" (Tempting Phantom), Peter Kreuder's "Hochzeitsreise" (Honeymoon), and "Wiener Mosaik" (Vienna Mosaic) with music by the Strauss family are scheduled. Dia Luca is the choreographer.

Rossini's "William Tell" will be performed in November under the musical direction of Argeo Quadri. Erik Sundquist is

to sing Tell.

Franz Lehar's "Tsarevich" is programmed for the middle of December. Musical direction: Anton Paulik; Per Grunden will sing the title role. A new presentation of Meyerbeer's "L'Africaine" will follow in March, 1959. Argeo Quadri will conduct, Adolf Rott will direct.

Performance of a new operetta is planned for April. This will be the prize-winning work in a contest arranged by the Volksoper management. Late in May, Antonin Dvorak's "Rusalka" will be given.

A CORRECTION:**"THAT PLATANOV" HAD WORLD PREMIERE IN 1928**

In our issue of March 22 ("Austrian Information," Vol. XI, No. 6) we announced what we erroneously thought would be the world premiere of Chekov's little known play, "That Platanov," at the Vienna Burgtheater. Mr. Rene Fueloep-Miller of the Department of Sociology of Hunter College, New York, has informed us that he had purchased the exclusive rights for the play during his stay in Russia in the Twenties; translated and adapted by Mr. Fueloep-Miller, "Der Unnuetze Mensch Platanoff" was produced in Gera and elsewhere in Germany in 1928.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

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